

ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

35th Anniversary Season 2017-2018

Alex Pauk, Founding Music Director & Conductor

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2017-2018 SEASON AT A GLANCE
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Sunday October 15, 2017

Eternal Light

Christopher Goddard (Canada)
Spacious Euphony (2016)

Claude Vivier (Canada)
Siddhartha (1976)

Colin McPhee (Canada)
Tabuh-Tabuhan (1936)

Alex Pauk – conductor

Concert Sponsor: **HJF** HAL JACKMAN
FOUNDATION



Sunday November 19, 2017

Emergence

Daníel Bjarnason (Iceland)
Emergence (2011)

Marc-André Dalbavie (France)
Concerto for Violin and Orchestra (1996)*

Douglas Schmidt (Canada)
Just a stranger here myself... (2014)***

Ana Sokolovic (Canada)
Ringelspiel (2013)

Alex Pauk – conductor

Véronique Mathieu – violin

Concert Sponsor: **The Max Clarkson Family Foundation**



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Sunday February 11, 2018

Plug In

Eugene Astapov (Canada)
Hear My Voice (2017)***

Unsuk Chin (Korea)
Mannequin (2015)*

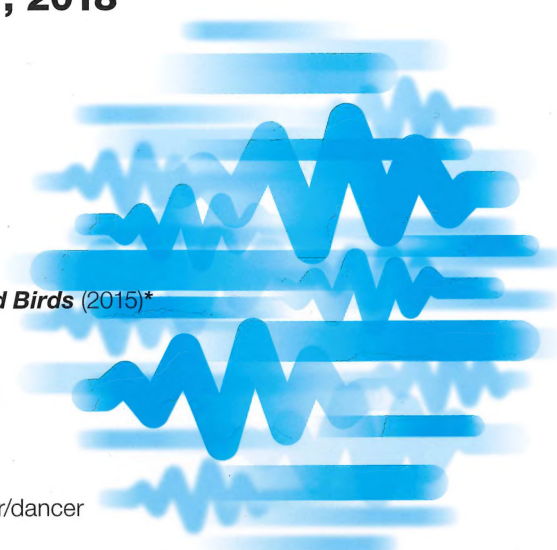
Tan Dun (China)
Passacaglia: Secret of Wind and Birds (2015)*

José Evangelista (Canada)
Symphonie minute (1994)

Matthew Ricketts (Canada)
Lift (2018)**

Alex Pauk – conductor

Jennifer Nichols – choreographer/dancer



Sunday April 15, 2018

Taiko Plus!

Chris Paul Harman (Canada)
New Work (2018)**

Maki Ishii (Japan)
Mono-Prism (1976)*

Fuhong Shi (China)
Concentric Circles (2009)*

Scott Wilson (Canada)
Dark Matter (2018)**

Alex Pauk – conductor

Shannon Mercer – soprano

Nagata Shachu – Japanese taiko drummers



*Canadian Premiere **World Premiere ***Previously Commissioned by Esprit



Photo by Bo Huang

BLOWING THE ROOF OFF KOERNER HALL AT 35

I can't believe it's been 35 years! A dream realized.

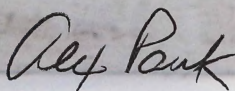
I enthusiastically welcome you to our subscription concert series at Koerner Hall in celebration of Esprit's 35th Season. I've aimed to present thought-provoking programs with strong thematic coherence and resonance.

Included are block-buster pieces as well as works having special meaning in Esprit's evolution. Programming reflects my philosophy of building artistic relationships over time to foster more substantial, lasting, and profound artistic results than can be achieved in "one-off" performance experiences. This allows audiences and musicians alike to get a deeper understanding of a composer's work.

As for our outreach activities, we are adapting Esprit's unique, exemplary, world-leading Creative Sparks mentoring program into a new project called Ontario Resonance. This project will engage 450 high school students, who will be composing and performing in celebration of Ontario's 150th Anniversary. Guided by Esprit's composers and musicians, student composers from 6 schools will create pieces to be performed by fellow students combined with Esprit's artists.

As always, exciting world premieres of Esprit-commissioned works, Canadian premieres of important international pieces, and repeat performances of exceptional works previously performed are the core ingredients of my programming. I encourage you to stick with us throughout the season - right up to the finale of the last concert when Japanese taiko drummers join us to blow the roof off Koerner Hall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alex Pauk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alex" and last name "Pauk" clearly distinguishable.

Alex Pauk, C.M.
Music Director

Eternal Light



Sunday October 15 2017

8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall

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416 408 0208

Christopher Goddard (Canada)
Spacious Euphony (2016)

Claude Vivier (Canada)
Siddhartha (1976)

Colin McPhee (Canada)
Tabuh-Tabuhan (1936)

Alex Pauk – conductor

Concert Sponsor: **HJF** HAL JACKMAN
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From its beginning, Goddard's *Spacious Euphony*, a vast musical arch, builds in energy and exuberance to transform itself into a fanfare for the start of the concert as well as the celebration of Esprit's 35th Anniversary Season. Euphony ('pleasing to the ear') is definitely the right word for inclusion in the title of his piece.

Vivier's *Siddhartha*, his largest and most profound orchestral work, will receive its Toronto premiere. The piece encompasses every musical aspect of the mystical and spiritual explorations that consumed Vivier's life.

McPhee's passion for Balinese culture is magically interwoven into *Tabuh-Tabuhan*, adapting motifs and rhythms of gamelan music. This joyous work, an Esprit touchstone, aptly serves as the finale for our opening concert.

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Emergence (2011)

Marc-André Dalbavie (France)
Concerto for Violin and Orchestra (1996)*

Douglas Schmidt (Canada)
Just a stranger here myself... (2014)**

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Ringelspiel (2013)

Alex Pauk – conductor
Véronique Mathieu – violin

*Canadian Premiere

**Previously commissioned and premiered by Esprit

Concert Sponsor: **The Max Clarkson Family Foundation**

Dalbavie's violin concerto, its spectacular virtuosity combined with distribution of the orchestra throughout the hall, exhibits the full power and intellect of his music.

In *Just a stranger here myself...*, the idiosyncratic Schmidt delivers a panorama of musical episodes immersing listeners in dreams of world-wide places that have influenced his music.

Sokolovic's *Ringelspiel* (German for merry-go-round) evocatively inundates listeners with brilliantly inventive orchestration and effects to depict recollections of childhood.

With its cinematic feel, Bjarnason's *Emergence* sweeps the listener up in a kind of daydream that reflects the composer's wide-ranging experience working in pop and classical new music fields.

Emergence

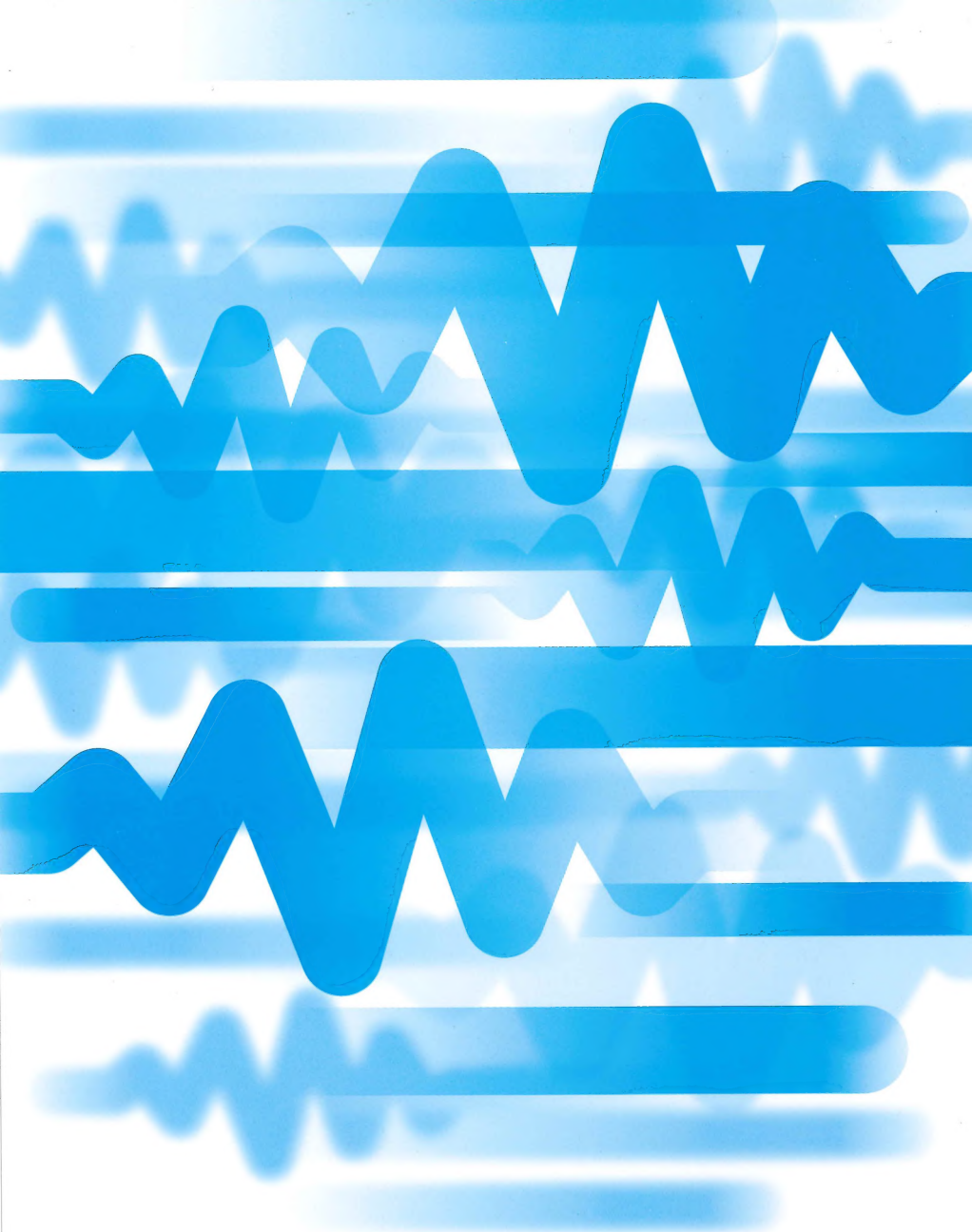
**Sunday
November 19
2017**

**8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall**

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Plug In

Sunday February 11 2018

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Alex Pauk – conductor
Jennifer Nichols – choreographer/dancer

*Canadian Premiere

**World Premiere commissioned with generous support from Canada Council for the Arts

***Previously commissioned and premiered by Esprit

Astapov's *Hear My Voice* has embedded in its musical texture an early recording of Alexander Graham Bell shortly after his invention of the telephone. Paired with this piece is Tan Dun's *Passacaglia: Secret of Wind and Birds*, which imaginatively uses modern cell phones "played" by the orchestra and audience members to create "a poetic forest of digital birds".

Evangelista's *Symphonie minute*, contrasting with most symphonies' grand proportions in duration, instrumentation, and power of expression, is a work of great charm in four short movements with light textures and rapid tempos.

Chin's glittering, rattling, whirring piece *Mannequin*, and Ricketts' new work *Lilt* have both been composed with "imaginary choreography" as a creative stimulus. Esprit has commissioned Jennifer Nichols to choreograph and perform a dance with the premiere of *Lilt*.

Ishii's *Mono-Prism* brims with emotional, intoxicating energy. Seven Japanese taiko drummers provide the monochrome sounds which are set against the prismatic tone quality of the orchestra in an ever-changing tonal diversity and dynamism.

Wilson's *Dark Matter* takes data from the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, the world's largest particle accelerator, as raw material to be realized in poetic sound and vision. The groundbreaking search for elusive 'new physics' in the form of 'dark matter' provides inspiration for an exploration in images, electronic sound, and orchestral energy.

Fuhong Shi returns to Canada for the performance of her *Concentric Circles*. The world premiere of Chris Paul Harman's new work for soprano and orchestra reinforces Esprit's strong belief in and support for the composer's exceptional creativity.

Taiko P

Chris Paul Harman (Canada)
New Work (2018)**

Maki Ishii (Japan)
Mono-Prism (1976)*

Fuhong Shi (China)
Concentric Circles (2009)*

Scott Wilson (Canada)
Dark Matter (2018)**

Alex Pauk – conductor
Shannon Mercer – soprano
Nagata Shachu – Japanese taiko drummers

* Canadian Premiere

** World Premiere commissioned with generous support from the Koerner Foundation

**Sunday
April 15
2018**

**8:00pm Concert
7:15pm Pre-Concert Chat
Koerner Hall**

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416 408 0208**

us!

The background of the entire page is a large, abstract graphic consisting of concentric, swirling bands of light blue and white. The swirls are thick and have a hand-drawn, organic feel, creating a sense of motion and depth. The colors transition from a bright white in the center to various shades of blue as they spiral outwards.



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Box Office Hours:

Monday – Friday	10am-6pm
Saturday	12pm-6pm
Sunday/Holidays	3 hours prior to performance

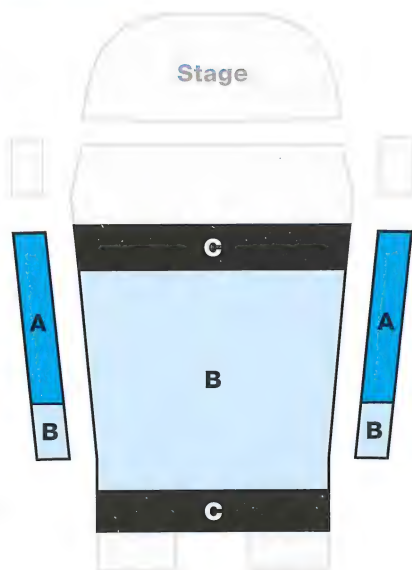


Photo by Malcolm Cook

Subscription Prices

(Prices included all taxes and RCM box office fees)

	A	B	C
Adult Regular	\$195	\$160	\$130
Senior 65+	\$175	\$145	\$130
Under 30	\$105	\$90	\$70



- A** Parterre AB 1-12
- B** Parterre AB 13-16 / Orchestra Level E-Q
- C** Orchestra Level C, D, R, S

Ontario Resonance Finale Concert

Thursday November 23, 2017

7:30pm

**Jeanne Lamon Hall at Trinity St. Paul's Centre
427 Bloor Street West**

Eugene Astapov - conductor

Featuring Six World Premieres by Ontario Resonance Mentoring Composers, plus a selection of exceptional student works!

Free admission for the general public.

Ontario Resonance is a free student mentorship program created by Esprit Orchestra with support from the Government of Ontario to mark Ontario's 150th anniversary. Students at six schools across the GTA are paired with a professional composer, who mentors them in the creation of their own piece of music, which is then performed by a combination of student musicians and members of Esprit Orchestra. The program focuses on the creation of new music with the theme of Ontario places, sounds, and historical and cultural ties. Students receive hands-on performance and composition opportunities, and develop an awareness of and appreciation for Ontario's contemporary cultural environment.

For more information on Ontario Resonance events, please visit espritorchestra.com

Participating Schools:

Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts
Earl Haig Secondary School
Regent Park School of Music
St. Elizabeth Catholic High School
Unionville High School
University of Toronto Schools

Composer Mentors:

Adam Scime
Eugene Astapov
Bekah Simms
Chris Thornborrow
Mark Duggan
Christina Volpini



Photo by Amber Melhado

Supporting great
contemporary
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BMO



We're here to help.™

At BMO, we take pride in our local communities. That's why, each year, through various donations and sponsorships we are committed to providing our support. BMO is proud to support **Esprit Orchestra** and to be the 2017/18 season sponsor.

ENHANCE YOUR CONCERT EXPERIENCE

Looking for an opportunity to engage with the artists featured in our concerts?

Esprit hosts Pre-Concert Chats in Koerner Hall immediately before every concert. Each discussion is hosted by Juno award-winning Canadian composer Alexina Louie. Previous guest artists have included José Evangelista, Chris Paul Harman, and Véronique Mathieu, all featured in our 2017-2018 concert season.

All Pre-Concert Chats are free with your ticket purchase and start at 7:15pm – 45 minutes before showtime.



"Esprit Orchestra



We need your financial support to help Esprit achieve all of its goals.

meets Koerner Hall – glorious.”

— Globe & Mail



Photo by Malcolm Cook

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Alice Ping Yee Ho
Vincent Ho

Gerhard Ginader
Scott Good
Denis Gougeon
Chris Paul Harman
Gary Hayes

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Petar Kresimir Klanac
Rudolf Komorous

ER RIT'S EARS

MISSIONS
PREMIERES
AN WORKS

Peter Paul Koprowski

Henry Kucharzyk

Larry Lake

Michel Longtin

Alexina Louie

Raymond Luedeke

Andrew MacDonald

Bruce Mather

Christopher Mayo

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Ana Sokolovic

Harry Somers

Douglas Schmidt

Adam Scime

Bekah Simms

Andrew Staniland

Norman Symonds

Chris Thornborrow

Gilles Tremblay

Barry Truax

Owen Underhill

Christina Volpini

John Weinzwieg

Scott Wilson

John Wyre

Jimmie LeBlanc

Christien Ledroit

Analia Llugdar

Maxime McKinley

Samy Moussa

Phil Nimmons

John Oswald

Alex Pauk

1983

1984

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ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

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